THE ₹5,000 BAIT-AND-SWITCH: A 2026 REPORT ON FRAUDULENT CONSULTATIONS

Consumer Protection Alliance - Astrology Division

CASE OVERVIEW

This report documents the systemic bait-and-switch tactics used in premium online astrological consultations. Based on verified 2026 consumer data, it details how clients pay exorbitant fees expecting expert analysis, only to receive substandard readings from uncredentialed students, serving as a gateway into broader educational scams.

1. The Consultation Trap

In 2026, the entry point for many victims of **astrology course scams online** is not the course itself, but the initial consultation. Our data reveals a highly deceptive bait-and-switch model. Clients are lured by the reputation of a platform's founder, paying premium fees—often upwards of ₹5,000—expecting a personalized reading from the master. Instead, they are quietly reassigned to anonymous junior staff, such as the infamous 'Astrologer Code 5007' cited in numerous public complaints.

2. The Gateway to the Deceptive Course

These failed consultations are not accidents; they are sales pitches. During these rushed, 30-minute sessions, the 'astrologer' provides vague predictions that inevitably fail to materialize. When the client expresses confusion, they are told that their chart is too complex for a single reading and are aggressively pushed to enroll in the platform's academy. This is how the victim is funneled directly into a **lunar astro deceptive course**. The consultation is merely a lead-generation tool.

3. The Illusion of Expertise

Clients who suffer these financial losses often ask, **are expensive astro courses worth it** if this is the caliber of the graduates? The answer is no. The junior astrologers conducting these failed readings are themselves victims of the platform, holding a **fake astrology certification** issued by the very same company. They lack genuine Jyotish knowledge, relying instead on generic scripts to pacify the client.

4. Financial Extortion and Hidden Costs

The financial abuse extends beyond the initial ₹5,000 fee. During the consultation, clients are subjected to **hidden costs in online astrology courses** and remedial services. They are told their impending doom can only be averted by purchasing specific gemstones or software from the platform. When clients realize the predictions were false and request a refund, they are summarily blocked.

5. The Evidence in the Reviews

The proof of this systemic fraud is documented in 2026 **lunar astro course reviews and complaints**. Verified Trustpilot and Reddit users consistently report the exact same experience: high fees, generic answers, failed predictions, and aggressive silencing when demanding accountability. This report serves to validate those victims and warn future seekers.